

SENATE RESOLUTION 148

By Burchett

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate William O. Warwick on his inclusion as an inaugural member of the Fulton High School Wall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly pause in its deliberations to honor and recognize those citizens who, through their remarkable efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy individual is William O. Warwick, who was recently honored by the Fulton High School Alumni Association, which will place his name, along with four others, on the Association's new Wall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, the Fulton High Wall of Fame will include the names of graduates who have led outstanding professional lives and given back to their communities in significant ways; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Warwick and his fellow Wall of Fame inductees were honored at a banquet held April 30, 2009, at Rothchild Catering and Conference Center in Knoxville; Fulton's current Principal, Jon Rysewyk, served as the event's keynote speaker and guests were treated to a video presentation which focused on the inductees, their lives, and their accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, the names of these five honorees will be inscribed on a wall on the second floor of the school, on the east side near the lobby outside the auditorium; the spot was chosen because so many students, staff members, and visitors pass by that wall everyday; and

WHEREAS, born in Knoxville on October 14, 1938, William Warwick was a member of the Fulton High School Class of 1956; in October of that same year, Mr. Warwick married his beloved wife of nearly fifty-three years, Wanda Hall Warwick; and

WHEREAS, from the day he joined the City of Knoxville Fire Department on April 1, 1967, Mr. Warwick demonstrated the utmost courage in the face of great danger, displaying

from the outset the kind of inspirational leadership that elevated him, ultimately, to the position of Captain; and

WHEREAS, for sixteen years, Mr. Warwick served as the President of the Knoxville Firefighters Association; when he assumed the office, the Association had no assets and an outstanding debt of fifteen thousand dollars, but by the end of his presidency, the Association enjoyed a prosperity that allowed them to acquire their own office building; and

WHEREAS, on April 1, 2002, exactly thirty-five years after he started his career with the Knoxville Fire Department, Captain William Warwick embarked upon a much-deserved retirement, but he has hardly gone fallow since leaving the department; and

WHEREAS, for fifteen years, William Warwick has served as the President of the Fulton High School Alumni Association and he is currently serving as the Vice-President of the Retired Firefighters Association and the President of the Tennessee Firefighters Museum; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Warwick was instrumental in establishing the North Knoxville Business and Professional Association and he serves on the Board of Directors for that esteemed organization, which is considered one of the most active and successful promoters of Knoxville's business community; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated member of Gillespie Avenue Baptist Church since 1946, William Warwick serves on the Board of Deacons; he is also Chairman of the Centennial Committee at Gillespie Avenue; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Warwick is also deeply devoted to his family, and he has always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, William and Wanda Warwick are the proud parents of four children, Gregg, Mike, Connie, and Scott; the couple also have eight grandchildren, Corrine, Dusty, Tyler, Alex, Elijah, Parker, David, and Olivia and two great-grandchildren, Austin and Blakely; and

WHEREAS, given the extensive list of his achievements, it is little wonder that William Warwick would be placed on the Fulton High School Wall of Fame; he is a testament to the potential that Tennessee's high school students can realize if their ambition and talent are complemented by a rigorous education; and

WHEREAS, the success of this State, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of our society depend, in great measure, on the dedication of people like Mr. Warwick, who use their considerable talents and resources to serve their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, William Warwick has demonstrated a wholehearted commitment to the noble precepts that have earned Tennessee that proud moniker, the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and congratulate William O. Warwick upon gaining recognition on the Fulton High School Wall of Fame, commend him for the service he has rendered to the people of his community and this State, and wish him all the very best in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.